



# **Citizens Committee**

## **Work Group**

### **LONG-TERM STRATEGIES**



## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2006**

**11:00 am**

**Old Coliseum Motors Building**

**131 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Wolcott**

The press conference will announce the long-term Strategies and critical Actions Steps developed by the CFI-Building Meth Free Communities Work Group.

The CFI Work Group, over the past two and a half weeks, has dedicated more than 50 hours of volunteer meeting time, and extensive personal time, for intense study, reflection, investigation, and discussion on how best to accomplish their mission. The results of their efforts have produced specific long-term Strategies and detailed Critical Action Steps to address the elimination of Meth use in our communities.

Long-term Strategies and Critical Action Steps have been identified under broad categories and will necessitate participation by the entire community for successful implementation:

- Identification & Early Intervention
- Treatment
- Law Enforcement and Judicial
- Prevention & Community Involvement.

On Wednesday, the CFI Work Group will handover their Long-term Strategies and Critical Action Plans to the Implementation Task Force.

Contact:

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Business Resource Group

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Community Facilitation Initiative is to create a  
long term comprehensive strategy to address and eliminate  
Methamphetamine use in Natrona County and its communities.*



## **WORK GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

**Marjorie Bisiar  
Ashley Bright  
Mike Burnett  
Rose Fry  
Jim Hageman  
Jim Hanlin  
Bill Harms  
Lora Huston  
Mary Janssen  
Kevin Meenan  
Bill Nelson  
Chad Ryan Pearson  
Kim Perry  
Bob Price  
Pamela Reamer Williams  
David Renaud  
Sean Waters  
Kathy Woodward  
Jill Wright**

## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**

The CFI Citizens Committee Work Group has completed an intense process to develop a set of comprehensive Long Range Strategies, Recommendations and Action Steps, under the core areas of Prevention, Treatment, Identification and Early Intervention, Law Enforcement and Judicial, all designed to create Meth free communities in Natrona County. The Strategies cut-across all segments of the community, and recognize that every citizen of Natrona County has a responsibility to actively participate. The Work Group, as representatives of their community, is adamant about ensuring that the Strategies and Action Steps are aggressively moved forward.

In order to implement the Work Group's recommendations, their final product will be transitioned to an **Implementation Task Force**. The Task Force will initially be comprised of:

- Casper City Manager
- Mayor of Mills
- Mayor of Evansville
- Casper Chief of Police
- Media Representative
- Natrona County Commissioner Representative
- Philanthropic Community Representative
- School District Representative
- Medical Community Representative

The Task Force will have the option to draft new members as they see the need arise. This Task Force will be the "Keeper of the Vision" and will implement the Strategies and Action Steps of the Work Group's final product.

The Task Force will identify, direct and oversee Sub-Committees to further develop, focus and execute the specific Strategies and Action Steps. Sub-Committees will incorporate and integrate stakeholders representing Government, Health/Medical, Education, Media, Law Enforcement, Private Business, Treatment Providers, Philanthropic Organizations, and Concerned Citizens. The formation of Sub-Committees will be dynamic, organized to achieve specific Action Steps, and then disbanded or reformed as Action Steps are accomplished and new Action Steps are identified.

An important aspect of the Task Force and Sub-Committee member selection is that they be empowered to create collaborations, coalitions and partnerships, to break-down barriers in order to accomplish and implement the Action Steps defined by the CFI Work Group.

The CFI Work Group has expressed a sincere desire to continue participation in the Implementation Phase, at whatever level is appropriate for their skills or expertise, e.g.; Sub-Committee Member or Chair. The Implementation Task Force will meet with the Work Group twice a year to review implementation progress.

This is a serious, action oriented, comprehensive, integrated community response to eliminate methamphetamine use in Natrona County.

## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES**

### **UMBRELLA STRATEGIES**

#### **Umbrella Strategy#1: Action Steps**

All critical action steps, identified within this document, must include components of measurement, accountability, incorporate Best Practices, and be time bounded for implementation.

#### **Umbrella Strategy #2: Data Collection**

Create a centralized system of data collection, reporting and analysis, and cross agency communication regarding Methamphetamine issues. The system will include, but will not be limited to, information from the court and judicial system, law enforcement, medical service providers, treatment providers, Department of Family Services, Natrona County School District, and other agencies and organizations as identified. The data collected will be made available to all participating entities to enhance operational effectiveness.

#### **Umbrella Strategy #3: Communication**

Develop and implement a sustainable coordinated multi-media, compelling public information and public education campaign addressing the consequences of Methamphetamine use. The campaign will be multi-dimensional, with elements targeting young people, young adults, parents, grand parents, and extended families. Efforts should be made to incorporate media originating from Natrona County High School, Casper College, and other youth and young adult media services.

#### **Umbrella Strategy #4: Community**

Engage all citizens of Natrona County to actively participate in the efforts of Prevention, Identification, Early Intervention, and Recovery.

#### **Umbrella Strategy #5: Community**

We recognize that the most vital assets in our community are the character and responsibility of our youth, the strength and health of our families and the protection and practice of traditional Wyoming values. Therefore, we support the efforts of our community's organizations and programs that seek to instill character and responsibility in our young, that seek to strengthen our families and that seek to instill traditional Wyoming values. They are critical to our fight against the scourge of Methamphetamine.

#### **Umbrella Strategy #6: Community**

We believe the Methamphetamine crisis threatens our community so severely that drastic measures are required. Like any Americans, however, we value the civil liberties guaranteed in our Constitution. Therefore, we admonish those who would implement our Action Steps to ensure that every proper consideration be given to the protections and rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES**

### **IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

#### **Strategy #1**

Implement an aggressive and comprehensive community-wide effort of identification and early intervention targeting Methamphetamine use to reduce the consequences of Methamphetamine addiction on youth, adults, community safety, the criminal justice system, and the healthcare system.

#### **Strategy #2**

Develop a system that responds to and supports identified Methamphetamine users which facilitates immediate access to early intervention and treatment services.

#### **Work Group Statements:**

- We support the “We Test” private employers, agencies, and organizations.
- We support legislation that reduces workers compensation rates for employers who adopt pre-employment and random drug screening and/or have a drug testing policy.
- We encourage the community to make a determined effort to identify and assist Meth addicts before they reach the criminal justice system.

#### **Critical Action Steps:**

##### **Priority - Immediate**

1. Develop a fast-track for self-identified individuals to get treatment, help, support, counseling, etc.
2. Develop a list or data base of information sources (Meth related) for treatment, services, etc.
3. Compel community leaders (government, healthcare, educational, etc.) to take the lead in this effort by voluntarily submitting themselves to random drug screening.
4. Implement mandatory drug testing of all new-born babies, and their mothers.
5. Incorporate drug screening into prenatal/pregnancy testing.
6. Implement METH HOT-LINE (possible use of 211).
7. Develop a Child Development Center type of assessment for developmental needs of new-borns testing positive.

8. If the “privacy” laws get in the way of Identification and Early Intervention, discover ways to implement the Strategies and Action Items, while protecting and respecting individual privacy.
9. **Identified Gap:** Develop a response team to immediately intervene and provide assistance to individuals, who are not in the law enforcement or criminal justice systems, who test positive for drug use at the Emergency Room, medical clinics, doctor’s offices, through a pre-employment or employer sponsored random drug test, etc.

**Priority - High/Immediate**

10. Develop and implement a method/process/procedure to address the reporting of and follow-up for medically identified Meth users, e.g., emergency room, physicians, out-patients, clinics, etc.

**Priority - High**

11. Enhance the capability/power/authority for DFS to take whatever action is appropriate when they are called-in: for example, testing swabs or testing kits to detect drug use in a home.
12. Implement drug testing policies (voluntary or mandatory) for Trades and Trade Unions, Government Employees and Elected Officials, School Teachers and School Administration, Private Business, Nonprofit Organizations, Medical Community, Students, others.
13. Develop and implement METH WEBSITE for Parents – information, resources, etc.
14. Develop and implement METH WEBSITE for Kids – information, resources, etc.
15. Implement policy that all government contracts require contractors to have an active drug testing policy in place (similar to Federal Contracting requirements). Encourage private business to implement similar policy with their contractors.
16. Develop small business assistance for work place drug testing/drug screening.
17. Develop and implement training and education for Nonprofits, Schools and Parents on signs and symptoms to look for relative to Meth use.

**Priority - Medium**

18. Develop drug information and treatment resource package for employers to give to employees and encourage employers to offer employee assistance in identifying treatment.
19. Develop and implement Training Program for public workers and individuals on identification of possible Meth use or labs, to prevent inadvertent exposure to Meth; DFS, Public Health, Building Inspectors, Trash Collectors, Cable Installers, Telephone Installers, Plumbers, Hunters, Wildland Firefighters, ranchers, farmers, etc.

**Priority - Reserve for future consideration**

20. Offer low-tech/low-cost screening (San Diego model)



## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES**

### **TREATMENT STRATEGIES**

#### **Strategy #1**

Create collaboration and a network of all treatment and support service providers so that the client is placed in the appropriate (ASAM) level of care, provided with a continuum of specific evidence-based treatment services individualized to each client, and can fluidly move among the levels as ongoing assessment necessitates.

#### **Strategy #2**

Develop a comprehensive program which would incorporate independent assessment, certified referral sources, capacity, staffing and a system which facilitates a Methamphetamine user's immediate access to and placement into appropriate treatment and/or support services, regardless of their personal circumstances.

#### **Work Group Statements:**

- We support immediate intervention and access to treatment for all identified Meth users whether identified through the criminal justice system, self-identified, or identified through medical, employer, or random drug screenings.
- We believe that restitution should be part of Therapeutic services.

#### **Critical Action Steps:**

##### **Priority - Immediate**

1. Establish a single parent Residential Rehabilitation facility(s) where children can be with the parent.
2. Create intervention and treatment services for pre-natal mothers, pregnant women, and new borns.
3. Create a network of Residential Treatment facilities throughout the community which would cumulatively address the identified critical bed capacity shortfall.
4. To address the identified shortage of Treatment Professionals throughout the state; work with Casper College and University of Wyoming to expand professional staff curriculum for Treatment services, offer incentives for Treatment Professionals to move to Wyoming, the State should be involved in out-of-state recruiting of Treatment Professionals, accelerate/expedite the State licensing process; or, adopt license reciprocity with other States.

5. Ensure and maintain standardized assessment programs and require the reporting of data on a regular basis for monitoring and tracking.
6. Provide effective Treatment and track effectiveness outcomes. Standardized data needs to be collected regarding the various Treatment programs offered in the community to determine the effectiveness of the programs.
7. Create a funded treatment voucher system for adult addicts, available to those in both the criminal justice system and self-identifiers. However, individuals need to be accountable for the cost (or a portion of the cost) of their Treatment; providers might offer a sliding scale for the cost of treatment, a payment plan, etc.
8. Establish minimum standards for Treatment providers.
9. Treatment services should be offered to the entire family and/or the extended family.

**Priority - High**

10. Develop a Therapeutic Visitation Center, where parents can visit with their children and develop parenting skills.
11. Create an integrated network of community-based wrap-around support services.

**Priority - High/Medium**

12. All children picked-up during a drug arrest, either by the police or DFS, will have a CAP (Child Advocacy Project) assessment.

**Priority - Medium**

13. Provide job training program/ job skills training for individuals in Treatment.

## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL STRATEGIES**

#### **Strategy #1**

Ensure the Law Enforcement and Judicial systems have the resources necessary to provide consistent sentencing options, judicial supervision, supervised probation, drug screening/testing, treatment options, aftercare, and monitoring of individuals entering the criminal justice system for Methamphetamine related crimes.

#### **Strategy #2**

Ensure that Child Protective Services and Department of Family Services have sufficient resources to address their increasing case load as the safety and welfare of our children is the community's primary concern.

#### **Work Group Statement:**

- The CFI Work Group acknowledges and supports the outstanding efforts of Law Enforcement throughout Natrona County and it's communities in addressing the Methamphetamine crisis.

#### **Critical Action Steps:**

##### **Priority - Immediate**

1. Create a 24-hour adult County Detox Detention Center/intake incorporating assessment for potential treatment diversion.
2. Develop and implement policy to ensure consistent treatment and accountability by all lower (Misdemeanor) Courts, for first time offenders.
3. Establish permanent funding for Misdemeanor Drug Court.
4. Prosecute all Misdemeanor drug charges, both adult and juvenile, through Circuit Court to ensure consistent treatment and tracking.
5. Hire sufficient number of probation officers to meet the expanding needs.
6. Any drug involved contact with Law Enforcement (misdemeanor or other) should trigger Child Protective Services to respond, investigate and report. Suspect questioning should always include information on any minor children, for example: "Do you have children? Where are they?"
7. Establish an information management system that will allow the sharing of information by all courts.

8. Hire sufficient number of Youth Diversion Officers to meet the needs of an expanded program.
9. Increase the nursing staff at the Natrona County Detention Center to address the additional demands resulting from increased Meth related intakes.
10. Any probationer/parolee testing positive for drugs shall trigger a CAP (Child Protective Services) response.
11. Immediately pursue robust, sustainable, and proper funding for Law Enforcement at the state and local levels.
12. Address and enforce City/County code enforcement with special consideration of drug houses under the “dangerous building” clause.
13. Establish standards of remediation for buildings, houses, and rental units where Meth has been present.

**Priority - High/Immediate**

14. Support drug testing, reporting, and data tracking in all probation – share information with appropriate courts, law enforcement and judicial.
15. Ensure that Law Enforcement has state-of-the-art equipment, is engaged in the regional law enforcement network, and avails itself of the new technology and approaches.

**Priority - High**

16. Develop and implement a substance abuse assessment program for every first time entry in the criminal justice system.
17. Expand the current ISP (Intense Supervised Probation) program.
18. Adopt a “Strategic Hamlet” model in critical neighborhoods, to include low-level Law Enforcement presence coupled with other community/neighborhood building services; consider the use of “Weed & Seed” grant.
19. Encourage retailers to restrict the sale of needles and behind the counter sale of ephedrine/pseudo-ephedrines.

**Priority - Medium**

20. Assess the need for a Felony Drug Court.
21. Assess the need for a Juvenile Drug Court.
22. Evaluate the possibility of empowering the existing court system with the same attributes for treatment and supervision as the existing Misdemeanor Drug Court.
23. Ensure that adequate court room facilities are available to serve the needs of the community.

24. Support any Treatment program that the Sheriff requires to address the Meth/drug issues in the Detention Center.
25. Assess the need for another Prosecutor to handle the expanding caseload due to Meth.
26. Establish an informational communication vehicle to educate residents on what information to collect if they observe suspicious behavior in the neighborhoods: vehicle license number, description of individuals, street address of house, etc.
27. Increase the number of G.A.L.'s (Guardian Ad Litem) to handle increased Juvenile case load.

## **CFI ~ BUILDING METH-FREE COMMUNITIES**

### **PREVENTION & COMMUNITY STRATEGIES**

#### **Strategy #1**

Build and mobilize community collaborations into an ongoing comprehensive coordinated prevention effort, integrating and leveraging resources of neighborhood involvement, family strength, schools, child protection, public health, community organizations, faith based organizations, government organizations, medical community, private business, media, law enforcement, courts, corrections, and treatment providers.

#### **Strategy #2**

Create a community partnership with the Natrona County School District, law enforcement, parents, and neighborhoods to establish drug free schools and effective drug free school zones.

#### **Strategy #3**

Prevention programs targeting youth and young adults will be honest, factual, and straight forward to avoid sending mixed messages and misinformation.

#### **Strategy #4**

Develop and create a model to galvanize the compassion of the faith-based community to address youth/community prevention programs, intervention, and treatment wrap-around services.

#### **Work Group Statements:**

- Prevention in youth will result from treatment of parents.
- We are a community that values, and takes responsibility for, its youth, young people, and citizens.
- We are a community that stands for community and family values and will not tolerate indifference.
- We support teachers as role models for our children and we encourage them to submit to voluntary drug screening, recognizing and acknowledging the presence of legal issues.
- We recognize that Meth is only one of many addictive drugs. We are opposed to the use of all addictive drugs and those considered to be gateway drugs.
- We recognize and acknowledge the value of all grandparents and extended families that have stepped forward to “parent” children of Meth users, to foster and nurture these children into healthy young people.
- We support and encourage individuals and organizations to develop new and unique initiatives to address the prevention of Meth use in our community.

## **Critical Action Steps:**

### **Priority - Immediate**

1. Communicate the message that if an individual uses drugs, their ability to parent will be in question; *use drugs, loose your kids!*
2. Initiate community-wide parenting education because drug prevention starts at home. Instill a Community-parenting expectation – build a culture of good parenting: web site, media communication elements, educational classes and materials.  
Such as: Have dinner together as a family, reduce the drama of life, minimize the multiple challenges of school, observe age appropriate behavior, know where your child is, turn-off the TV, etc.
3. Find ways (countywide) to create markers to track and measure the effectiveness of prevention programs targeting both youth and adults: what's being done, number of adults and kids contacted, measurement criteria might be reduction in police calls or reduction in Meth use. Monitor and evaluate annually.
4. An expanded program of Vocational Technology (VoTech) education should be implemented by NCSD.
5. Aggressively promote youth organizations that build character, values, and healthy decision making.
6. Publish maps which include GIS data, similar to those in the Casper Community Comprehensive Substance Abuse Report, indicating areas of high levels of Meth activity, law enforcement activity, and code enforcement issues on a Meth Awareness web site or through some other media available to the public.

### **Priority - High**

7. Adopt portions, or all, of the “Broken Window” model of non-traditional law enforcement and neighborhood clean-up.
8. Identify and clean-up houses and rental units where Meth has been used. Establish and make public a list of these properties.
9. Educate homeowners, rental unit owners, hotel and motel owners/management on how to properly clean areas where Meth has been present to avoid exposure to hazardous substances.
10. Develop and offer after school programs, in a safe environment, that are fun, offer educational enhancements, provided by peers and caring adults. Recognize youth for their participation.
11. Develop and expand year-round, communitywide, teen-oriented, non-school specific programs and activities for junior high and high school age youth (8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
12. Expand the foster care (foster homes) for teens.
13. Develop a semester curriculum of health science that incorporates information about drug use, to be offered during 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

14. Review David Moore's community-schools comprehensive model for potential adaptation or elements of the model appropriate for this community.

**Priority - Medium**

15. Develop and encourage expanded employment opportunities for youth.
16. Re-energize and expand the Neighborhood Watch Program to include Meth Awareness.
17. Create peer group speaker panels to address students, to provide an honest, reality-based view of drug use and addiction.

**Priority - Reserve for future consideration**

18. Investigate the Colorado Models for screening renters and work with rental unit owners to create and adopt guidelines.
19. The community should make every effort to ensure that every child has a relationship with at least five positive adult mentors as they are growing-up.
20. Increase and/or create opportunities for peer mentoring.
21. To address the increasing demand for foster care providers, establish a boarding school with strong and supportive links to the community for parenting, nurturing, mentoring, etc. so that the children can remain in the community.





### **CFI PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Chief Tom Pagel, City of Casper Police Department**  
**Bill McDowell, Trustee Tate Foundation**  
**Cathy Killean, Natrona County Commissioner**  
**Guy Padgett, Mayor, City of Casper**  
**Tom Forslund, City Manager, City of Casper**  
**Phil Hinds, Mayor, Town of Evansville**  
**Joe Dill, Mayor, Town of Mills**  
**Nathan Bekke, Publisher, Casper Star-Tribune**

### **CFI PROJECT SPONSORS**

**Tate Foundation**  
**City of Casper**  
**Meth Awareness Committee**  
**Natrona County Commissioners**  
**Town of Bar Nunn**  
**Town of Edgerton**  
**Town of Evansville**  
**Town of Midwest**  
**Town of Mills**

### **CFI CONTRIBUTORS**

**Bar-D Signs**  
**Burger King Restaurants**  
**Casper Events Center**  
**Casper Journal**  
**Casper Police Department**  
**Casper Recreation Center**  
**Casper Star Tribune**  
**Clear Channel Radio**  
**Holiday Inn on the River**  
**IKON Office Solutions**  
**Papa John's Pizza**  
**Neal McMurtry**  
**T-Shirts Etc.**  
**VFW Post #9439**

**A special thank you to City of Casper Mayor, Renee Burgess**

